

**The  
Heritage  
Alliance**

# POW WOW

The Newsletter of the Places of Worship Project  
Issue 5  
March 2010

## MANIFESTO OUT NOW!

Places of Worship  
at The Heritage Alliance  
A Manifesto



PLACES OF WORSHIP AT THE HERITAGE ALLIANCE  
A MANIFESTO FOR HISTORIC PLACES OF WORSHIP  
COMMUNITY, JOBS AND SUSTAINABILITY

### The front page of the Manifesto Leaflet



Places of Worship  
is a project of  
The Heritage Alliance.  
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funded by the  
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The Places of Worship Manifesto, produced by the Steering Group of POWAlliance, is now available on The Heritage Alliance website for you to download!

Designed in a convenient pocket sized form, the Manifesto leaflet has now been updated to reflect the change of name and house style that has taken place, turning Heritage Link into The Heritage Alliance.

The Manifesto sets out very clearly why we believe historic places of worship are important to the nation, and what we believe any incoming government after the General Election should do to protect them.

It will be officially launched at Saint Gabriel's Church, Warwick Square, Pimlico, London, on the 4th of March, from 9am until 10am. It looks set to be an excellent event, with a number of eminent guests, including Loyd Grossman (the new chairman of The Heritage Alliance), The Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, and The Lord Mayor of Westminster. More news in the next issue of POW WOW!

Please disseminate the Manifesto as quickly, widely and effectively as you can. It is designed to be used in the weeks and months before the forthcoming election, to raise the profile of historic places of worship in the minds of MPs standing for re-election, prospective parliamentary candidates, and of course, the electorate as well. You will, I am sure, all have different ideas about how you can most usefully employ it to further the aims that you are working for. Please do let me know if you find a particularly effective way of using it - it is really important that we should share good ideas at this crucial political moment.

**Deborah Jarman**  
**Places of Worship Development Officer**  
**The Heritage Alliance**  
**07605 675679**



## Church of England Synod discusses Church Buildings

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010, the Church of England General Synod debated the repair of church buildings. This was initiated by two diocesan motions which **recognizing that church buildings are an important part of our national heritage and provide not only a spiritual focus for worship and pilgrimage but in many cases also play a vital role as community meeting places, visitor centres and spaces for the wider celebration of the arts and in view of the national backlog of church building repairs asked that Synod support a call on HM Government to**

**(i) substantially increase the amount of money available for the repair of listed church buildings; and**

**(ii) fully fund the repair of Grade I listed churches.**

In his opening presentation, the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres reminded Synod that **"we are the custodians of a country wide infra structure which would take billions to replicate and which has huge potential at a time of financial stringency"**. He stressed that no one is suggesting a wholesale conversion of churches to secular uses. **"The worship of God is primary and we also recognise our responsibility to care for the best of the past. But churches that are involved in their communities in a multi faceted way; who are looking to serve; can also experience spiritual regeneration"**. The Bishop then went onto to explain that during the discussions that led up to the publication of the report **Churches and Faith Buildings: Realising the Potential**, it was discovered that almost all the constituency MP's among them had a positive story to tell from their own part of the country about a church that had opened itself up to the wider community. What was harder for them to discern was the aggregate potential of our 16,000 church buildings. He stressed the need to ensure that MP's heard about **"the amazing things that churches were doing in their local communities as MP's, as we all know, take more notice of the evidence of their post bag than any number of press releases from central bodies"**.

During the debate that followed, we heard inspiring stories of churches already making imaginative and positive contributions to their local communities. The Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Revd Anthony Priddis spoke of the need for a new vision which would lead us to an understanding of our own communities and their needs and a willingness to work in partnership with others to meet those needs. Other speakers stressed the huge burden of maintaining these buildings, so many of them heritage buildings, especially for smaller congregations and that it can take away energy and time from the mission work of a church. By way of answer, the Revd Preb Boardman, vicar of St Paul's, Old Ford, London spoke about how church buildings are a **"profound asset for mission and can generate a profile within our communities. They can be a place of change and transformation, a venue for a range of activities and they can generate many new disciples"** or to put it another ways **"churches are our 16,200 shop fronts"**.

Several speakers also stressed that asking Government to fully fund Grade I listed buildings was too big a request in these stringent times, and the original motion was amended to read that Synod **welcomed the contribution made to church building repairs by the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, and call on HM Government to:**

**(i) substantially increase the amount of money available for the repair of listed church buildings; and**

**(ii) give an early commitment to continuing beyond March 2011 the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.'**

This was passed unanimously.

**What you can do:** if you go to the Church of England Churchcare website and click on <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/news.php>, you will find a sample letter to send to your MP to encourage him/her to ask for an extension to the Listed Places of Worship Grants scheme. The sample letter may also be downloaded from the Library page of the Places of Worship section of The Heritage Alliance website, at [www.heritagelink.org.uk/library-2](http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/library-2). As proposed by the Bishop of London, it suggests that you include a paragraph to tell your MP about the activities that your church is undertaking in the community.

February 2010

## ARCHBISHOP VINCENT NICHOLS SPEAKS TO CONFERENCE AT SAINT PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

This is the text of a speech given by Archbishop Vincent Nichols at  
'English Cathedrals: Yesterday, Today and Forever', held on the 1st of December 2009

I would like to thank Baroness Andrews and English Heritage for the invitation to be present today and to speak to you. I would like also to express the greetings to you all of Bishop Tom McMahon. His enthusiasm for the work of English Heritage and for our own Catholic tradition has been most important in our Bishops' Conference for many years now. He is absent because he is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination as a priest. I don't think this qualifies him for a grant. But his enthusiasm remains contagious.



I would like to record my thanks to English Heritage. I do so as a Catholic and I do so even though we are not major recipients – as yet – of financial help from English Heritage. This is easily understood in the recognition that the major issues of the mediaeval cathedrals have had to be addressed.

Yet through our study and growing cooperation with English Heritage, in the survey of our cathedrals and in the broader programme of 'Taking Stock', we have in our community a growing appreciation of the treasures that are our Catholic cathedrals and churches.

There are of course many of our church buildings which are precious and remarkable expressions of a vibrant and sensitive faith. Many belong to the Victorian era but some go back further than that and others of course are the product of more modern taste. For my part I have just left the Archdiocese of Birmingham which is rich in cultural and architectural heritage. I think of the outstanding churches in the village of Brails, the Catholic parish in Worcester and of course the Pugin gem in Cheadle. This heritage was more widely appreciated in the publication by English Heritage of the volume entitled 'A Glimpse of Heaven'. It is encouraging that this book has just

recently been published in paperback form. Now, the story of some English Catholic cathedrals is told with beautiful clarity in the recent publication 'Creativity and Care'.

The second point I would like to make is this: that our particular concern – but not exclusively ours – is that a Catholic church must always be considered first and foremost as a 'sacred space', understood in the strict sense.

I remember well as a young priest in the Toxteth area of Liverpool learning this lesson from a most unusual source. A young man called Albert came with his girlfriend, their baby and their dog, to request to be married in the fine sandstone parish church built earlier by the Benedictines in Overbury Street. I asked him why he wanted to be married in church since I had never seen him there. He protested that surely that was obvious. But I persisted with my method of probing him with questions until I drove him to exasperation. But in his exasperation he uttered words which have had a profound effect on me and, for all his lack of education, were in fact deeply eloquent. He burst out, saying to me that the reason why he wanted to be married in church was "because the stones of this church are filled with the prayers of the people".

This same truth is often illustrated in Westminster Cathedral to which people come solely for its sense of silence and of prayer.

So our Catholic concern, with our cathedrals and indeed all our precious church buildings, will always be to preserve and deepen the sense of the numinous, that almost tangible sense of God's presence and the importance of our churches as places of prayer. I hope that this will be understood and accepted, even in a time when this spiritual dimension of our human nature is so easily overlooked.

May I again express my thanks to English Heritage, assure English Heritage of our cooperation as we seek to cherish, protect and develop our very special heritage of cathedrals and churches.

Thank you all very much.

+Vincent Nichols

# NEWS

## English Heritage and the HLF pledge further help for Listed Places of Worship

On the 18th of February, 2010, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund announced more than £15.7 million to support urgent repair work to 154 Grade I and II\* listed places of worship across England. The grants were awarded under the organisations' joint Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme. Places of worship set to benefit include; the Presbyterian Church of St Peter, West Liss, East Hampshire, The Prince's Road Synagogue in Liverpool, the Church of St George in Cullercoats, North Shields, and the church of Saint John on Bethnal Green in London.

If you would like any further information, please contact Rachel Tooby, Corporate Communications Manager at English Heritage on 020 7973 3252 or [rachel.tooby@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:rachel.tooby@english-heritage.org.uk)

## Chapels Society Publish 'Miscellany 2'

The Chapels Society is about to publish Miscellany 2: Chapels and Chapel People. The Society's first Miscellany appeared in its tenth year and, the society having just celebrated twenty years of life, it seems appropriate for another volume to appear. This collection of essays reflect the wide interests of our members who, though they might be thought only to be interested in buildings as structures, are inevitably drawn to the lives of those men and women who commissioned them, designed them and peopled them throughout their years of use

The essays collected in the book include a ground-breaking account of the first adoption of the Gothic style for chapel building amongst northern Unitarians written by Alan Petford; an analysis of the nonconformist signatories of the 1851 religious census in Berkshire by Kate Tiller; a typically lively piece by Clyde Binfield on the life and work of T Lewis Banks, the architect of St James's Congregational Church, Newcastle upon Tyne; and a description of Edgar Wood's remarkable First Church of Christ, Scientist, Manchester by Sarah Hill.

The book is of 106 pages and is illustrated throughout with drawings and photographs, many of them in colour. The full price on publication will be £18 plus £2 postage and packing. Please contact

## Guidance on Disposal Available

English Heritage and the DCMS have published guidance for faith groups facing the disposal of a redundant place of worship. While a charity is normally required to obtain the best price when disposing of property, a range of other options exist that could enable places of worship to remain in worship use by another group, become a community facility, or be preserved as part of the nation's heritage. The guidance has been produced with the support of the Charity Commission. It is available on the DCMS website: [http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/6575.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6575.aspx) or by emailing [nick.chapple@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:nick.chapple@english-heritage.org.uk)

## Correction

In the last issue of POW WOW, it was incorrectly stated that the first Churches Conservation Trust church to be returned to parish use was Toxteth Saint James. In fact, the first one was St Lawrence's Church, Didmarton, Gloucestershire. Thank you to Catherine Cullis of SPAB for pointing this out.

<b><u>Religious Festivals in March 2010</u></b>		
<b>Christian</b>	St David's Day	1st March
	St Patrick's Day	17th March
	Palm Sunday	
<b>Hindu:</b>	Holi	1st March
<b>Jewish:</b>	Pesach	31st March
<b>Sikh</b>	Nanakshahi	14th March
<b>Buddhist</b>	Magha Puja	30th March

## JOB VACANCIES

### **Casework Officer, Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, Church of England**

Maternity leave cover, initially for a 9 month period commencing 19 April 2010, subject to extension. The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division brings together the staff serving the Church Buildings Council and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission, both of which are concerned with the care, conservation, development and use of church buildings. The post's role is to assist the Church Buildings Council in the discharge of its duties under the Diocesan, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007, to advise the Archbishops' Council and Synod on all matters relating to churches, and to consider consultation by Chancellors, Registrars and DACs in relation to application for faculties.

As a member of the Church Buildings Division to provide advice and support to dioceses and parishes on all matters relating to church buildings.

For the full job profile, to download the application form, and details on how to apply, please go to <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/info/vacancies/> . Closing date 9th March 2010, For more information about the work of the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division please go to

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/builtheritage/> .

Also worth a look is the Division's website aimed at providing guidance and advice to those responsible for looking after church buildings [www.churchcare.co.uk](http://www.churchcare.co.uk)

### **Churches Tourism Association seeks Treasurer**

Kay Linnell has given superb service as Treasurer to CTA over the years. However, due to professional commitments, she has to relinquish the post at the end of October 2010. CTA is now looking for a replacement, preferably to shadow Kay from July onwards. The task is not at all onerous, but does require some financial acumen. This is an honorary post but all expenses of office will be met. For further details and to express an interest, please contact John Irving at [jirving@tcct.org.uk](mailto:jirving@tcct.org.uk)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Churches Tourism Association (CTA) 2010 Convention Monday 15 to Wednesday 17 November 2010 The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire**

Dates for your diaries! Planning is underway and confirmed speakers already include:

- Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal OBE, former President of the Methodist Conference,
- John Winton, National Director, Churches Tourism Network Wales,
- Dr Brian Fraser, Director, Scotland's Churches Scheme, and
- Revd Dr Dee Dyas, Director, Christianity & Culture, Centre for Medieval Studies, York.

This will be the premier national networking and learning event for all involved in opening up our places of worship and improving the welcome offered to people who visit them to enjoy our faith heritage. More details on [www.churchestourism.info](http://www.churchestourism.info) in due course.

**'The Shaping of Nonconformist Architecture'**  
**Saturday 8 May 2010**  
**Dr Williams's Library, 14 Gordon Square WC1H 0AR**

Attendance is free but limited to 80 places. Registration is required.

The sixth annual one-day conference of the Dr Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies, a collaboration between the School of English and Drama, Queen Mary, University of London, and Dr Williams's Library, in association with the Chapels Society.

**Programme**

**10.30am** Registration and coffee

**10.50am** Welcome

**11–11.45am** Lecture 1: 'Two Norwich chapels: architecture and theology after the Act of Toleration' *Vic Nierop-Reading (University of East Anglia)*

**11.45am–12pm** Discussion

**12–12.45pm** Lecture 2: 'James Simpson and the shaping of Methodist architecture in the early nineteenth century' *Ian Serjeant (Methodist Church)*

**12.45–1pm** Discussion

**1–2pm** Sandwich Lunch

**2–2.45pm** Lecture 3: '1862: Congregational architecture and the bicentenary of 1662' *Professor Clyde Binfield (University of Sheffield)*

**2.45–3pm** Discussion

**3–3.45pm** Lecture 4: 'Old perspectives and new ambitions: Nonconformist architecture and the early twentieth century' *Dr Christopher Wakeling (Keele University)*

**3.45–4pm** Discussion

**4–4.45pm** Tea

Co-directors of the Dr Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies: Dr David Wykes, Director, Dr Williams's Library, and Honorary Reader, Queen Mary, University of London Professor Isabel Rivers, School of English and Drama, Queen Mary, University of London

**Please email the details specified below to: [conference@DWLib.co.uk](mailto:conference@DWLib.co.uk)**

I shall attend the conference on 'The Shaping of Nonconformist Architecture'

I shall require a sandwich lunch YES/NO

Name:

Title:

Organisation:

Address:

Email:

Please give details if you have any special requirements:

***Crossing the Threshold***  
**Church of England Training Seminars in 2010**

More information about the programme will be circulated shortly

For further information please contact: Ruth Watkinson, Project Manager, Cathedral and Church

<b>10th June</b>	<b>London</b>	Enabling churches to be more effective in opening buildings to the community in partnership with the Church Urban Fund
<b>18th June</b>	<b>York</b>	Liturgy and the wider use of church buildings in partnership with the Liturgical Commission
<b>30th September</b>	<b>South East</b>	Community development approach for Church Buildings. Working in partnership with Dioceses of Oxford, Canterbury and Rochester
<b>18th October</b>	<b>London</b>	Liturgy and the wider use of church buildings in partnership with the Liturgical Commission

Buildings Division, Church of England: [ruth.watkinson@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:ruth.watkinson@c-of-e.org.uk)

## **'Enduring Monuments'**

**The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Conference 2010  
Wolfson College, Cambridge, May 1<sup>st</sup> 2010**

This year's conference will address the history and care of church monuments and other memorials and changing attitudes to death and commemoration.

**Professor Richard Marks will speak on 'The rood and remembrance', a talk which will encompass medieval rood screens and funerary rites.**

*Professor Marks' primary research field is Gothic art, particularly stained glass, manuscript illumination and sculpture. His interests focus on the function of and audience for visual imagery. He curated a major exhibition entitled Gothic, held at the V & A in 2003-4.*

**Dr Jean Wilson will speak on early modern memorials, the ways in which post reformation memorials changed from their predecessors, and what they intended to communicate.**

*Jean Wilson lives in Harlton and is an enthusiastic member of the Trust. She has published widely on reformation monuments and is a council member of the Church Monuments Society.*

**Dr Julian Litten will talk about funerary monuments and attitudes to death in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.**

*Julian has been described as 'England's foremost funerary historian' and his book 'The English Way of Death' is in its 4<sup>th</sup> reprinting. He was on the curatorial staff of the V&A from 1966 -1999 and now lives in Kings Lynn*

**The final session will be a panel discussion with representatives of the Church Buildings Council and English Heritage and a leading conservator. There will be advice on the care and repair of monuments, where to get professional help and sources of funding.**

For further information please see the website

[www.cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk](http://www.cambshistoricchurchestrust.co.uk) and download the booking form.

## **'Discovering Sacred Britain' Conference 10am to 4pm on Thursday 18 March 2010 The Monastery, Gorton, Manchester**

An invitation to those who care about all of our sacred sites - including cathedrals, chapels, gurdwaras, meeting houses, mosques, parish churches, synagogues and temples - and those interested in tourism and high quality visitor experiences in England.

Discovering Sacred Britain will be hosting a day conference about openness, information, interpretation and hospitality, with those who look after places of worship, heritage and tourism professionals, and those who care about community cohesion. For three years, the North West Multi Faith Tourism Association has developed this work by delivering their Marque of Excellence to sites which reach a certain standard of visitor quality. Join us on 18 March to discuss whether this could be delivered in other regions across the country.

We'll have presentations by senior representatives from English Heritage, Visit England, sacred sites, destination marketing bodies and the North West Multi Faith Tourist Association.

The conference fee is only £25 for those involved in faith groups, interfaith work and sacred sites (£75 for others).

Full programme: [www.discoveringsacredbritain.org.uk](http://www.discoveringsacredbritain.org.uk)

Further information: email [info@discoveringsacredbritain.org.uk](mailto:info@discoveringsacredbritain.org.uk) or call 01768 777671.

# STOP PRESS



**Care of Churches**

**Team Summer Intern-  
ship 2010**

**The Care of Churches Team at the Diocese of London is looking for an enthusiastic and hard working individual to spend three months working in the department responsible for providing building conservation advice to the Diocese's unique portfolio of more than 480 church buildings, ranging from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.**

The successful candidate will spend approximately half of their time carrying out research in order to compile Statements of Significance summarising the historical interest of churches and graveyards, a task for which full training will be given. The placement will also include attendance at site visits, administering a project to return historic artefacts to their churches of origin, along with some more routine administrative duties. The Care of Churches Team exists principally to give full time support to the work of the London Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, a group of 30 experts in all aspects of churches and their conservation, and the placement will provide extensive opportunities to meet and work with these experienced professionals.

The successful candidate is likely to be a recent graduate in history, archaeology, art or architectural history, or to hold a further degree in conservation of historic buildings. Most important however will be enthusiasm and a willingness to learn, as well as a demonstrable interest in developing a career in historic buildings work.

The placement will be based initially at the Diocese of London's office in Causton Street, London SW1. The start date would be in June or July 2010 and all reasonable expenses will be paid.

For an informal conversation, and to apply, please contact Catherine Ward on 020 7932 1189 or [catherine.ward@london.anglican.org](mailto:catherine.ward@london.anglican.org). Closing date for applications May the 3rd.

## **Lord Mawson speaks in House of Lords debate on the Co-Location of Public Services in Under-Used Church Buildings**

On Monday the 22nd of February 2010 Lord Andrew Mawson, who co-founded the Community Interest Company 'One Church 100 Uses' spoke in a debate on the co-location of public services in the House of Lords.

The text of his speech may be downloaded from the Library page of the Places of Worship section of The Heritage Alliance website at <http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/library-2/>

The proceedings of the whole interesting debate, including other contributions from Lord Roberts of Llandudno, the Bishop of Leicester, and Lord McKenzie of Luton, may be seen at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100222-gc0005.htm>